



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323



In Reply Refer to:
1060 (COS01000)

December 2, 2014

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE: January 30, 2015

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios Field Office received a Bait Trapping Proposal for the wild horses of Disappointment Valley's Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area in August 2014 from Kathryn Wilder, TJ Holmes, and the National Mustang Assoc. / Colorado chapter board of directors in conjunction with Four Corners Back Country Horseman and Mesa Verde Back Country Horseman (Disappointment Wild Bunch Partners). The Tres Rios Field Office is now accepting scoping comments on the proposal to implement bait trap gathering of horses within the Spring Creek Basin Wild Herd Management area on an as needed basis as population levels exceed appropriate management levels. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as having an interest in the associated activities.

The BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the proposed action and alternatives to that action:

What: The proposed project is to implement bait trap gathering of horses within the Spring Creek Basin Wild Herd Management area on an as needed basis as population levels exceed appropriate management levels.

Where: Access to the Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area is between Norwood and Dove Creek, Colorado in the Disappointment Basin. The main entrance from the west is from San Miguel County Road 19Q, also known as Disappointment Road. (Please see attached map).

When: No gather dates have been set at this time.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to meet goals and objectives of the Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area to maintain a healthy viable wild horse population in balance with healthy rangelands by maintaining the appropriate management levels (AML). The action is needed because when BLM determines there are excess wild horses present on the range within the HMA, population levels over the Wild Horse Herd Area Management Plans (HMAP) guidance of 35-65 head, horse gathering needs to occur. The Proposed Action would maintain wild horse herd numbers at levels consistent with range conditions and the AML, in order to meet standards of rangeland health, and to achieve objectives and decisions authorized in the HMAP.

Comment regarding the project should be submitted via email or hard copy by January 30, 2015 to:

BLM Tres Rios Field Office
Attn: Lindsey Eoff
29211 Highway 184,
Dolores, CO 81323
or leoff@blm.gov.

This letter also requests your comments, if any, on the potential effects to historic properties. This request is made to satisfy consultation requirements with local governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please contact Lindsey Eoff, BLM Assistant Field Manager, Tres Rios Field Office, at (970) 882-6829.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personally identifiable information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

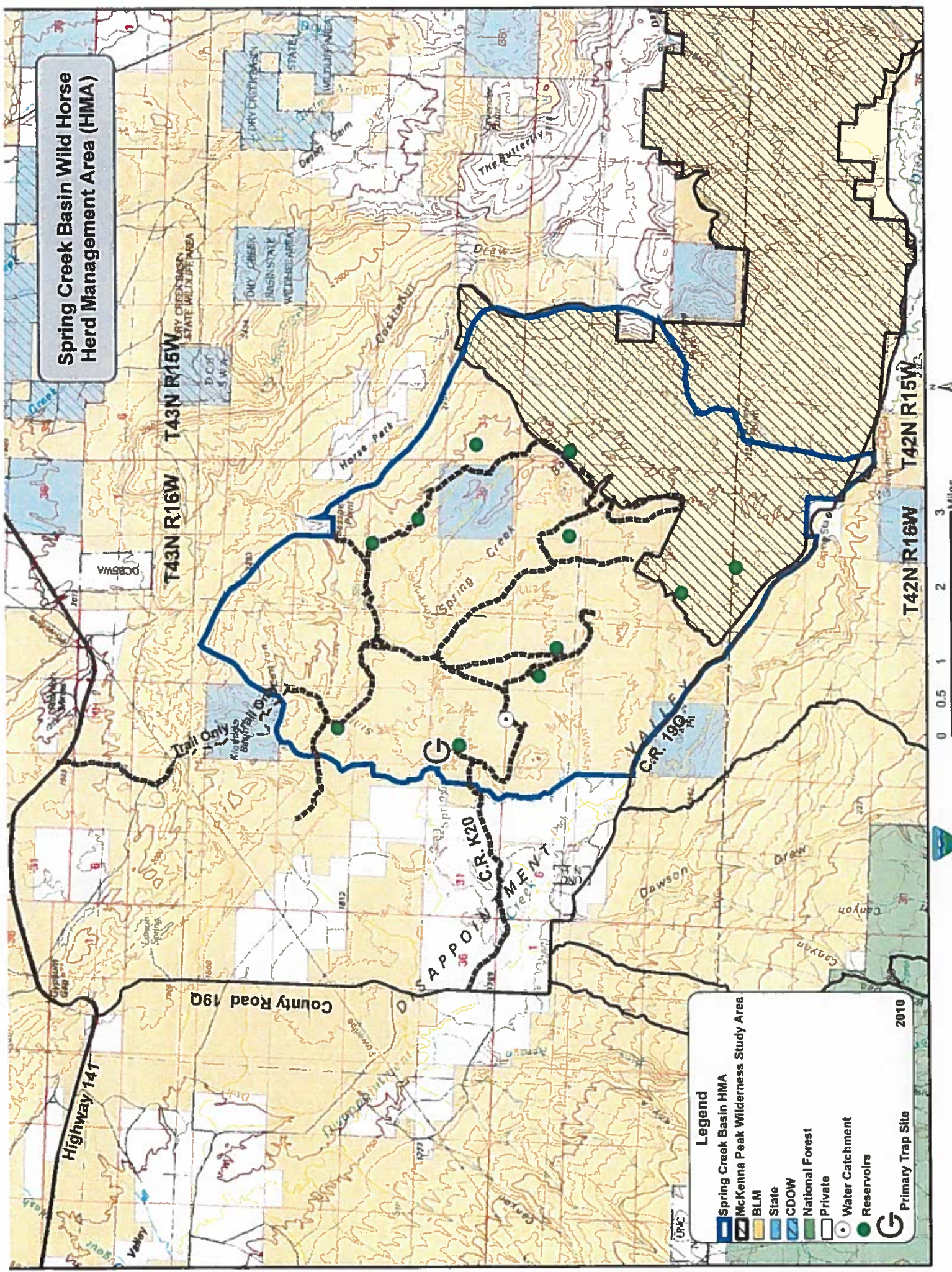
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Connie Clementson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Connie Clementson
Field Manager

Enclosure - map

Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA)



Legend

- Spring Creek Basin HMA
- McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area
- BLM
- State
- CDOW
- National Forest
- Private
- Water Catchment
- Reservoirs
- Primary Trap Site

2010

